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Soviet Secret Police Boast of Outwitting U. S. in Spying Case

CPYRGHT

By ANATOLE SHUB

Special to The Inquirer and Washington Post

MOSCOW, Dec. 18.—The Soviet security police force, celebrating its 50th anniversary this week, introduced British defector Harold Adrian (Kim) Philby to Russian readers Monday night in a five-column interview produced for the Government newspaper Izvestia.

Philby described proudly how he had outwitted Western intelligence agencies during the 1940s and publicized his recently completed book of memoirs—which his associates have been attempting, thus far without success, to place in British and American newspapers.

DENIED BY U. S.

The Philby interview followed an article in Pravda earlier Monday accusing two former American military attaches here of espionage in the Ukraine in 1966—accusations which the U. S. Embassy called “fabrications . . . without foundation.” Other media have been publicizing the secret police for several days in an obvious buildup for its anniversary celebrations Wednesday.

The organization, known since 1954 as the Committee on State Security (KGB), is currently headed by Yuri P. Andropov. It was founded six weeks after the Communist seizure of power as the CHEKA, or Extraordinary Commission Against Sabotage and Speculation.

Its leaders over the years have included Henryk Yagoda, Nikolai Yezhov and Lavrenti Beria—all of whom died violent deaths here—and Alexander Shelepin, a member of the present Politburo whose current influence is believed attested to by the magnitude of the publicity now being given one of the less beloved Soviet organizations.

FEW NEW FACTS

The Philby interview added little to what had been disclosed in British publications about the double agent's activities and was curiously reticent on several points.

For example, Philby described a talk he had in 1951 in Washington with Allen Dulles, Frank Wisner and Frank Landsay of the CIA about organizing an anti-Communist revolt “in one of the Socialist countries in the Balkans.”

This operation, which Philby betrayed to his superiors in the KGB, who thereupon foiled it, was revealed earlier this year to have been directed at Albania. Why the KGB preferred to avoid mentioning its role in saving the Albanian regime of Enver Hoxha was not known.